

Of pure smelted lead the ingots are roughly cast in rectangular moulds and bear the Roman numerals XXX and XV. They are respectively in size 2 ft. by 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 3 in., and 19 in. by 5 in. by 4 in. Together they weigh over 2 cwt.

In the district where they were found a hoard of copper coins of the Lower Empire was discovered about 50 years ago and in 1777 an ingot of lead inscribed "to the memory of the Emperor Hadrian". This ingot is now in the British Museum.

From their dimensions and markings these seem to be similar in character to the Roman type pig of lead from Carsington.² Their discovery close to the ford at Cromford tends to reinforce the suggestion that the Hereward Street was the route by which lead was carried to the north-east in Roman times.³ The Archaeology Officer of the Ordnance Survey gives the location as "area centred SK 29975712".

He also records that early mine workings were discovered by engineers prospecting for lead when driving a 9 ft. by 8 ft. drift at a 16° incline into Riber Hill from Starkholmes. Some of the workings were thought by S. O. Kay to be Roman. One vertical shaft about 1 ft. 6 in. with neatly squared corners was striking in comparison with the rougher work of more recent periods.

More may now be said about the probable name of the lessee of the imperial lead mines in Derbyshire, if his identity with the lessee of those in the Mendips be accepted.⁴ Two dies were used for stamping the abbreviated names of the lessee on the group of four pigs of lead found at Green Ore, near Wells, in 1956.⁵ The originals have now been examined by R. P. Wright:

1. One is complete and shorter reading TI CL $\widehat{\text{TRIF}}$ (as already published).
2. The second die, of greater height, can be restored from the partial incuse stamps on the left end of one pig (d) and the right end of another (c), thus reading TI.C(L). $\widehat{\text{TRIFER}}$ (NA).

AN ANGLO-SAXON POT FROM DRAKELOW

By R. G. HUGHES

ANGLO-SAXON pottery is relatively rare in south Derbyshire. The last recorded discovery was in 1866 when a 6th century urnfield was found during excavations for the Derby-Ashby railway-line to the south of King's Newton. The urns were published and illustrated in the *Reliquary* (IX, 1868).

This miniature pot was found by workmen, who were excavating gravel

² *D.A.J.*, LXXIII (1953), 110.

³ *D.A.J.*, LXXX (1960), 79.

⁴ *D.A.J.*, LXXIX (1959), 88-96.

⁵ *J.R.S.*, LII (1962), 194. For TRIFERNA see *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, XV, 2467.

with a mechanical digger to make concrete for the Drakelow power station in January 1962, in the orchard near the farmhouse of Warren Farm, Drakelow (SK 227201). The pot was brought into Derby Museum by Trevor Tanton of Lower Dunstall, Burton-upon-Trent, for identification.

The name Drakelow means "dragon's mound". The "dragon" was there to guard the dead, and with such a clue one would expect to find an early burial ground or urnfield in the area. These small pots are usually associated with inhumations, but no trace of a skeleton was found. They are not often found in urnfields. It is thought that they contained votive offerings as they are found without material remains.

A hole had been deliberately cut into the side of this pot. It is fairly common to find cremation urns with a hole in the bottom or the side. T. C. Lethbridge believes that these pots were used primarily for domestic purposes, some probably as churns as was the case in recent times in the Hebrides.¹

This very small jar or bowl, with a height of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., maximum diameter $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. and base diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., is made of well fired grey-brown ware and globular in shape (Fig. 33). It is decorated with two pairs of neck grooves,

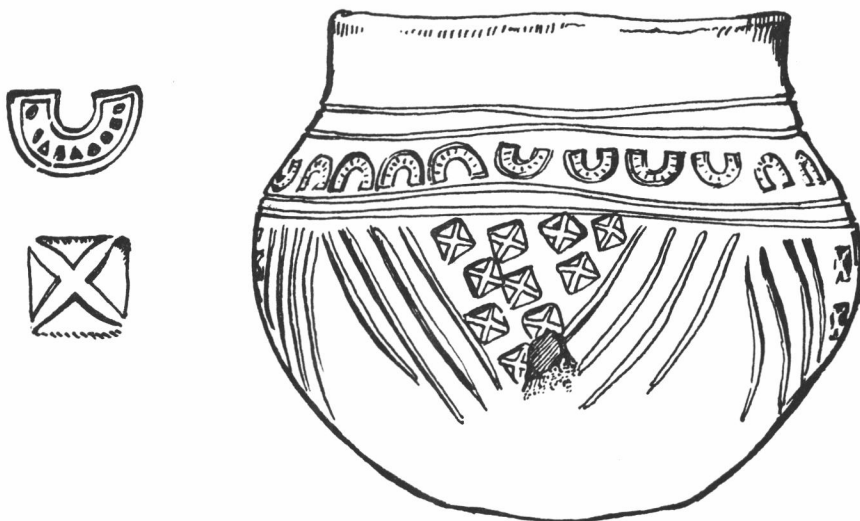


FIG. 33. Anglo-Saxon pot from Drakelow (1/1). Stamps x 4.

which are separated by a horse-shoe type of stamped decoration reversed after every fourth stamp. The body has a pattern of four-lined incised chevrons with the inverted triangular zone filled by a square stamp with a cross decoration.

This pot shows a combination of decorative features used by two peoples. It is basically of Frisian-Angle design with its neck grooves and incised

¹ "A Cemetery at Lackford, Suffolk", *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, n.s. VI (1951), Figs. 17 and 22.

chevron decoration. The stamped ornament is characteristic of the Saxons, who possibly derived their ideas from provincial Roman designs. This is an interesting early example of the intrusion of Saxon stamped ornament on Frisian-Angle decoration; it can be dated to about 550. The stamp impressions are important features for a good stamp has an individuality which is often recognizable. From such stamps the distribution of the pottery of individual potters may be traced. The cross stamp of this pot has been matched by R. K. Fennell in the series of urns from Loveden Hill, Lincs., but no parallel for the horse-shoe stamp has yet been found.